

The Youth Employment Training Pilot Program

By Sue Garman

Bureau of Occupational Health

Wisconsin Division of Public Health

What is the Youth Employment Training Pilot Program?

- It is a three year National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health funded grant

Goals of the Grant

1. Reduce the incidence of injury and death for Wisconsin working children
2. Provide an educational program for children so they become knowledgeable about basic occupational health and safety principles.

Goals of the Grant (cont.)

3. Identify and remove youths who are working in hazardous situations and prevent them from working in jobs prohibited by State and Federal rules.

Goals of the Grant (cont.)

4. Educate employers who are attempting to employ youths in prohibited jobs, who are having higher rates of injury, or who have an unsafe work environment.

Four Program Components

1. Computerize work permit applications so that youths will get an immediate denial if applying to work in a prohibited job.

Program Components (cont.)

2. Conduct an anonymous cross sectional survey twice a year in participating pilot schools to all high school students to determine:

- how many are working
- where they are working
- determine how many were injured and how it occurred
- how work may be affecting school performance
- how many feel they were put in a hazardous situation

Program Components (cont.)

3. A computerized training program for students will be developed as well as a curriculum that focuses on occupational safety and health for youth.

There will also be educational materials developed for youth, parents, educators, health care providers, and employers

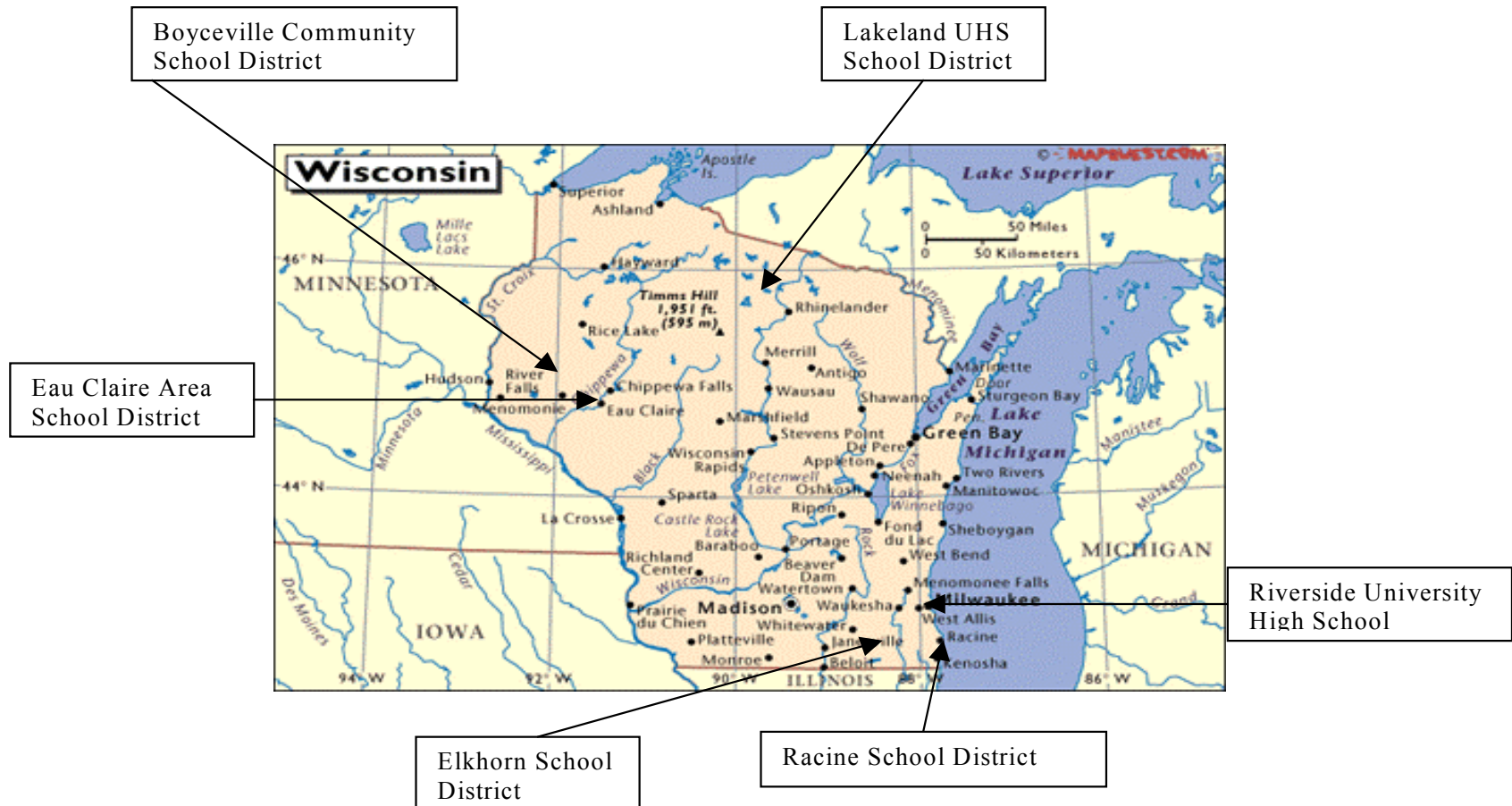
Program Components (cont.)

4. To create a website/hotline for students to ask questions or voice concerns regarding unsafe work practices or other work related questions

The number of pilot schools was increased to six.
The schools that will be a part of the study will be:

- Riverside University High School - 1,488
 - Eau Claire Area School District - 3,719
 - Elkhorn School District - 781
 - Racine Area School District - 6,323
 - Lakeland UHS School District - 945
 - Boyceville Community School District - 457
-
- **Total number of high school students participating in the study: 13,713**

Geographic Location of Pilot Schools



Youth Employment Surveys

Two surveys were written and were put on scanable forms.

- One survey will examine work during the school year and will be given in April
- One survey will examine work during the summer and will be given in October

Participating Students

- Number of students in the classroom: 9,485
- Number taking the survey: 7,469
- Number refusing the survey: 1,368
- Number of inaccurate surveys: 214
- Number absent: 648

Survey on Summer Employment

- The Summer employment survey was given to all pilot schools in October to complete.
- All school districts have agreed to have not only high school students complete the survey, but all middle school students will also be participating with this survey.

For more information about the project :

Please contact:

**Susan Garman
Wisconsin Division of Public Health
Bureau of Occupational Health
1 West Wilson Street, Room B157
Madison, WI 53701-2659
(608) 267-3256
garmasj@dhfs.state.wi.us**